

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 03654 061434Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 IGA-02 INRE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-05 CEA-01
L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /105 W
-----066948 061444Z /42

O P 031700Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1664
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY
AMEVBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NASSAU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 3654

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, TD
SUBJECT: TRINIDAD ANNOUNCES OWN CARIBBEAN AID PROJECT

REF: A) PORT OF SPAIN 3547
B) PORT OF SPAIN 3235 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. DURING ANNUAL BUDGET SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT DECEMBER
2, PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS ANNOUNCED THAT GOTT WILL SET UP
ITS OWN CARIBBEAN AID PROJECT ON A BILATERAL BASIS. THE
PROJECT PRESUMABLY WILL BE CONCERNED PRIMARILY WITH SHORING UP
BOP POSITIONS OF WEAKER CARICOM MEMBERS IN EFFORT TO MAINTAIN
TRINIDAD'S MARKET FOR EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES. WHILE STRONGLY
IMPLYING CRITICISM OF AND DISSATISFACTION WITH RECENT SUGGESTIONS
FOR CARIBBEAN COOPERATION (REF. A), WILLIAMS DID NOT RPT. NOT
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SPECIFICALLY RULE OUT T&T ATTENDENCE AT IBRD-SPONSORED
WASHINGTON CONFERENCE THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING COURSE OF LENGTHY ANNUAL BUDGET SPEECH DECEMBER 2,
BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY, PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS
ANNOUNCED THAT GOTT WILL OPERATE ITS OWN REGIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM, TO BE KNOWN AS THE T&T CARIBBEAN AID PROJECT, ON THE

BASIS OF PROPOSALS APPROVED BY CABINET (I.E., THOSE CONTAINED IN WILLIAMS' AUGUST 18 LETTER TO SECRETARY VANCE). PROGRAM WILL BE DIRECTED BY A COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY CENTRAL BANK GOVERNOR VICTOR BRUCE AND WILL BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH IMF, PROVIDED IMF AGREES. NO FIGURES WERE SPECIFIED FOR AID TO BE GIVEN.

3. EARLIER IN SPEECH, WILLIAMS HAD QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM HIS LETTER TO VANCE, OUTLINING DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSAL, WHICH HE SAID WAS MADE WHEN THE US HAD INSISTED THAT T&T TAKE "FINANCIAL AND IDEOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP" IN FORMING A CARIBBEAN AID CONSORTIUM HE ALLEGED THAT SINCE THE T&T PROPOSAL WAS FORWARDED TO THE USG THREE MONTHS AGO, NO MEANINGFUL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE AND THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO FORMAL RESPONSE TO IT.

4. PM ASSERTED THAT THE LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO GOTT IS THAT A LARGE CONFERENCE IS BEING PLANNED TO DISCUSS CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC NEEDS AND THAT IT WILL BE ATTENDED BY PARTICIPANTS, SOME OF WHOM ARE NEITHER DONORS OR RECIPIENTS BUT "ARE MERE OBSERVERS, WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN". HE STATED FURTHER THAT THE TREND IS AGAINST GOTT PROPOSAL AND TOWARDS THE OLD BILATERAL APPROACH INVOLVING TIED AID TO FACILITATE EXPORTS FROM THE DONOR COUNTRIES. DESPITE HIS CRITICISM OF THE UPCOMING WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, WILLIAMS LEFT OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT T&T WOULD ATTEND.
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5. COMMENT. IN VIEW OF COOLNESS SHOWN RECENTLY BY WILLIAMS TO US INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA, HIS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT T&T WILL "GO IT ALONE" WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED. THIS PORTION OF THE SPEECH CONTAINED SOME AMBIGUITIES AND IMPRECISIONS ON WHICH WE WILL COMMENT FURTHER ONCE FULL TEXT IS AVAILABLE. IT IS NEVERTHELESS CLEAR FROM THE CONTEXT OF HIS REMARKS THAT GOTT IS MORE IMMEDIATELY CONCERNED WITH SHORING UP BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS POSITIONS OF CURRENTLY WEAK CARICOM PARTNERS AND THUS MAINTAINING T&T'S MARKETS FOR EXPORTS OF MANUFACTURES THAN IN LONGER-TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. THE QUESTION OF WHAT RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY, T&T WILL HAVE WITH OTHER AID EFFORTS IN THE CARIBBEAN IS NOT ADDRESSED. IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, WILLIAMS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOTT WILL IMPOSE SELECTIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS FROM OTHER CARICOM COUNTRIES IN RETALIATION FOR RESTRICTIONS ON T&T EXPORTS WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED, IN THE CASE ON JAMAICA, AS BEING TOTALLY AGAINST THE SPIRIT OF THE JUNE 1976 AGREEMENT COVERING THE \$75 MILLION LOAN TO JAMAICA (SEE REF. B).
FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTO03654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770452-0340
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771296/aaaaddwu.tel
Line Count: 114
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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SAS ID: 370814
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD ANNOUNCES OWN CARIBBEAN AID PROJECT
TAGS: ECON, TD
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